



MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

NICARAGUA

Evaluation Report on Drug Policies

2019

PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), under the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), measures the progress achieved and challenges to member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. Mandated by the 1998 Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile, the MEM is the only multilateral tool of its kind in the world.

MEM evaluations are based on information provided by OAS member states, which is then analyzed by the MEM's Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts from OAS countries. For this round, the GEG performed its work from mid-2018 to mid-2019. The evaluation process was transparent and inclusive in nature, with no experts involved in the evaluation of their own country.

The GEG analyzed the following areas: institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation, and its evaluation is based on the 29 objectives and corresponding priority actions of the CICAD Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2016-2020. (A few priority actions were not considered, given they are not measurable.) In addition, the seventh round reports include a discussion of member states' progress over time during the seven MEM rounds.

Prior to the GEG's work, the MEM Inter-Governmental Working Group, also composed of representatives from OAS member states, designed the seventh evaluation round instrument during 2017, and the resulting questionnaire was then completed by member states.

The MEM reports focus on key themes important not only to CICAD but to the OAS as a whole, such as human rights, gender, age, culture and social inclusion. The reports also take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope the MEM reports serve as a useful diagnostic tool to improve drug policies and strategies, both at a national and regional level.

This report and all other MEM seventh round evaluation reports are available at <http://www.cicad.oas.org>

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL DRUG AUTHORITIES, PLACING THEM AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL AND PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY CAPABILITIES AND COMPETENCIES TO COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES IN THE STAGES OF FORMULATION, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

In Nicaragua, the National Council against Organized Crime (CNCCO) is the national drug authority. The CNCCO was established in 2010 as a decentralized entity reporting directly to the President of the Republic and its legal basis is set forth in Law No. 735 of 2010 on the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime and the Administration of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets.

The CNCCO coordinates the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, the drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation and has an annual and independent budget. The budget amounts for the years 2014-2018 are as follows:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Annual budget amount (US dollars)	\$178,482	\$160,560	\$163,120	\$164,446	\$165,211

The CNCCO is made up of the National Police, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Financial Administration Unit and the Nicaraguan Army under Decree 19 of 2018.

OBJECTIVE 2

FORMULATE, IMPLEMENT, EVALUATE AND UPDATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED, BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT INCLUDE A CROSS-CUTTING HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE, CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS OF PARTIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW¹ WITH A FOCUS ON GENDER AND EMPHASIZING DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION.

Nicaragua has the 2018-2021 National Antidrug Strategy, which was approved by the President of the Republic under Presidential Decree 18 of 2018. The strategy includes the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation.

The actors participating in the drafting, implementation, evaluation and updating of the National Antidrug Strategy are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Family, the National Police, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Nicaraguan Army, the Financial Analysis Unit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), the Nicaraguan Municipal Development Institute, the Unit Administrating Seized and Abandoned Assets, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Youth, the Nicaraguan Sports Institute, the Institute against Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, the scientific community/academia, civil society and other social actors.

The CNCCO has a functional unit focused on promoting, coordinating, training and providing technical support on drug-related issues. Its principal functions are training and certification of officials in the Ministries of Health and Education, the National Police and local governments and training for prison staff and persons deprived of liberty.

Local governments have a budget that is made up of their own funds (municipal tax revenue) and transfers made from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit to the municipal governments, pursuant to Law 466 of 2003 on Budget Transfers to Municipalities. This law requires that local governments earmark at least 5% of the budget from investment transfers to the health sector and at least 5% to education. These projects, as part of the model of inter-agency coordination and of local levels of government playing a leading role, are executed in the area of infrastructure.

The 2018-2021 National Antidrug Strategy takes into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda; includes a human rights perspective in its formulation and incorporates principles and values in the area of equality, restoration of rights and observance of human rights. It also includes a gender approach, where gender equality and equity are part of the principles of restoration of rights of the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity stipulated in Law 648 of 2008 on Equal Rights and Opportunities. In addition, Nicaragua receives technical advice from specialized international

¹ Full respect for international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, observing the principles of sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, fundamental liberties, inherent human dignity, and equal rights and mutual respect among States.

organizations to develop programs with a gender approach. This strategy also considers development with social inclusion, an area in which programs are being implemented by the country's institutions.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN AND COORDINATE NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES WITH OTHER PUBLIC POLICIES AND/OR STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

Nicaraguan Law 735 of 2010 on prevention, investigation and prosecution of organized crime and the management of seized, forfeited and abandoned assets provides for coordination of drug policies with institutions responsible for other public policies and/or strategies of the State.

To address the causes and socioeconomic consequences of the drug problem, the State's social public policy has included, in a transversal manner, the issues of prevention of the consumption of alcohol, drugs and smoking; prevention and attention to gender-based violence; and prevention of crime, violence, victimization, social exclusion and the fight against extreme poverty within the National Human Development Plan 2012-2016 and in the Axis of the National Human Development Program 2018-2021.

OBJECTIVE 4

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS (OR SIMILAR TECHNICAL OFFICES) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DRUG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THIS AREA.

Nicaragua has a national observatory on drugs with capacities and financial, human and technological resources, which is undergoing a restructuring process to review and update the instruments, regulations and definition of tools for identifying, obtaining, managing and processing data and information to produce science-based evidence in the area of demand reduction. The Center for National and International Documentation on Organized Crime is responsible for this process and receives technical support from international agencies.

In addition, the country has a national drug information network with the participation of universities, health institutions, statistical and census institutions, private consultants, civil society and other social stakeholders, international cooperation organizations, several government institutions and the Cabinets of the Family and Community.

The following is the data and information collected in the area of demand reduction:

Demand reduction			
Studies	Studies carried out and published		Year of most recent study
	Yes	No	
Survey of secondary school students		X	
National household survey (12 to 64 year olds)		X	
Register of patients at treatment facilities		X	
Cross-section survey of patients at treatment facilities		X	
Survey of patients in emergency rooms	X		2017
Survey of higher education students		X	
Survey of populations in conflict with the law		X	
Studies on drug-related mortality	X		2017
Studies on drug-related morbidity	X		2017
Studies on gender conditions related to drug problems		X	

The following is the data and information collected in the areas of supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes:

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Studies	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Quantification of illicit crop cultivation including crops grown indoors		X	
Number of seizures of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production	X		2017
Quantities of illicit drugs and raw materials for their production seized	X		2017
Number of seizures of controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Quantities of seized controlled chemical substances (precursors)		X	
Number of seizures of pharmaceutical products	X		2015-2017
Quantity of seized pharmaceutical products	X		2015-2018
Number of persons formally charged with drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017

Supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes			
Studies	Available information		Year of most recent information
	Yes	No	
Number of persons convicted of drug use, possession and trafficking	X		2017
Number of laboratories producing illicit plant-based drugs detected and dismantled		X	
Number of laboratories producing illicit drugs of synthetic origin detected and dismantled		X	
Chemical composition of seized drugs		X	
Sale price of drugs (to consumer)		X	
Number of persons formally charged with money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of money laundering	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and related materials	X		2017
Number of persons convicted of trafficking in firearms, explosives, ammunition and other related materials	X		2017
Number of persons formally charged with diversion of chemical substances		X	
Number of persons convicted of diversion of chemical substances		X	
Other: Persons convicted of storing, possessing, transporting and transferring narcotics and other controlled substances.	X		2017

The indicators and information managed by the national observatory on drugs does not include or systematically analyze data disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic and educational level and ethnicity.

The country has not carried out studies to evaluate drug programs or interventions.

OBJECTIVE 5

ENCOURAGE THE DESIGN, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR LOW-LEVEL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.

Nicaragua has Law 406 of 2001 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Law 745 of 2011 on execution, benefit and jurisdictional control of criminal penalties and Law 641 of 2007 of the Criminal Code, which provide for the use of alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses and take gender differences into account, in keeping with pertinent international instruments.

The country has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of implementing alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses.

OBJECTIVE 6

PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT, AS APPROPRIATE, COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS AND FORMS OF INVOLVEMENT.

Nicaragua has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration of individuals affected by the drug problem. These programs are conducted through the Youth Center of the National Police's Directorate of Youth Affairs, which targets youth at risk of drug use, young drug users and youth in conflict with the law.

These programs are coordinated with the neighborhood family and community cabinets, educational officials in schools and other institutions, addressing the different pillars of the 2018-2021 National Human Development Program and the 2012-2016 National Human Development Plan, which are updated periodically.

OBJECTIVE 7

FOSTER PROPORTIONATE SENTENCING, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THAT ADDRESSES THE SERIOUSNESS OF DRUG OFFENSES AND SAFEGUARDING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Nicaragua has Law 406 of 2001 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Law 641 of 2007 of the Criminal Code, both of which establish proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses.

The country does not have special courts and tribunals for low-level drug-related offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD recognizes that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has had a national drug authority, responsible for coordinating the areas of demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, drug observatory, international cooperation and program evaluation. This authority has its own independent annual budget.

CICAD notes that from the second to the sixth round (2001-2014), Nicaragua had a national drug plan in place. During the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has the 2018-2021 National Antidrug Strategy, which covers the areas of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures and international cooperation. This strategy takes into account the United Nations 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the human rights perspective, the gender perspective and development with inclusion.

CICAD is pleased that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua coordinates efforts under the 2012-2016 National Human Development Plan and the 2018-2021 National Human Development Plan, to address the socioeconomic causes and consequences of the drug problem.

CICAD notes that at the start of the first round (1999-2000), Nicaragua only had indicators in the area of supply reduction and that, as of the second round (2001-2002), the country focused its efforts to make progress in compiling information in the area of demand reduction. In addition, CICAD ascertains that, in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has established a national drug observatory and a national drug information network. However, CICAD is concerned that the indicators and information from the national drug observatory do not include or show an analysis of data disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic level, education and ethnicity; nor does it have key studies on demand reduction and certain information on supply reduction, trafficking and related crimes. In addition, the country has not conducted studies to evaluate the programs or interventions that are part of the national anti-drug strategy.

CICAD acknowledges that during the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Nicaragua has had legislation for the application of alternative measures to incarceration for low-level drug-related offenses. However, CICAD observes that, in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has not developed mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the impact of applying such alternative measures to incarceration.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has inter-agency and multisectoral programs that promote the social integration among vulnerable populations.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has laws in force for the application of proportionate sentencing, particularly for low-level drug-related offenses. It does not, however, have special courts or tribunals for these offenses.

DEMAND REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

ESTABLISH DEMAND REDUCTION POLICIES WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH FOCUS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED, COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, MULTISECTORAL, AND RESPECTFUL OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Nicaragua has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. These programs include intercultural, generational, human rights, gender and training approaches.

The guidelines and recommendations of specialized international organizations are taken into account when establishing demand reduction programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders and those indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO). These are used by the Institute against Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (ICAD) in its primary and secondary prevention programs.

The country has not carried out process or intermediate outcome evaluations or impact assessments of drug abuse prevention programs or any other ongoing research study.

Nicaragua has coordination mechanisms to develop and implement demand reduction programs allowing for the participation of and coordination with civil society and other social stakeholders, such as the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity Model, which is developed in conjunction with government institutions responsible for drug use prevention.

Measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse are implemented using the technical guide jointly published by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNODC and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as a reference.

OBJECTIVE 2

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL, SELECTED AND INDICATED PREVENTION PROGRAMS ON DRUG USE, GIVING PRIORITY TO VULNERABLE AND AT-RISK POPULATIONS, EVIDENCE-BASED AND INCORPORATING A HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, AGE AND MULTICULTURAL APPROACH.

Nicaragua implements prevention programs and strategies for the following populations:

Population group	Name of program	Type of program
School children		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary/primary 	“Creciendo en Valores”	Universal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior high & high school (secondary school) 	“Creciendo en Valores”	Universal
Street Population		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street youths 	Primary prevention	Selective (Southern and Northern Caribbean region)
	“Apoyo a Medidas de Prevención y Control del Crimen Organizado en Nicaragua” Project	Universal
Family	Family support program	Universal
	Knowledge-sharing and enhancement meetings among members of the educational community offices	Universal
	Monthly educational center meeting with the participation of parents or guardians	Universal
Individuals in the workplace	Diploma program in mental health and addictions targeting public servants	Universal
	Personal enhancement meetings for 1,500 directors and teachers, in educational centers	Universal

The country does not have indicated prevention programs, nor does it implement prevention programs for the following population groups: university students, street children or adults, gender, LGBTI, community, indigenous people, migrants and refugees or the prison population.

OBJECTIVE 3

ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, A NATIONAL TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMATIC DRUG USE, INCLUDING A HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER-BASED APPROACH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED QUALITY STANDARDS.

Nicaragua has a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use disorders, guaranteeing access without discrimination. This system includes specialized programs and devices for early intervention, brief intervention, counseling, crisis intervention, diverse treatment modalities, dual pathology (co-morbidity), social integration and services related to recovery support. These programs and devices take into account the UNODC and WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders. These standards are monitored by ICAD, under the 2012 Ministry of Health Regulation 089.

The country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use disorders. ICAD is the body responsible for monitoring and implementing Regulation 089 governing activities aimed at treating and rehabilitating addictive substance users. Outpatient services are provided by the public health system, private institutions, governmental organizations and religious institutions. Residential services are provided by private institutions, governmental organizations and religious institutions. The gender perspective is included in all Ministry of Health treatment services deployed throughout the country and in all the national institutions that serve the population within the framework of the restitution of rights, under the 2008 Law 648 on Equal Rights and Opportunities and through the implementation of the 2018-2021 Human Development Program.

Nicaragua has established and maintained cooperative relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide social and community support services with a gender perspective for the social integration of vulnerable populations. Within this cooperation framework, the country has participated in training courses and workshops developed by UNODC.

The country has mechanisms to continually monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs. Additionally, during the verification process of qualification criteria, control of compliance with human rights and gender approaches in care, treatment and social integration programs, is carried out.

Nicaragua also has mechanisms to protect the rights of problematic drug users in treatment programs and services. ICAD guarantees the observance of patients' human rights in health units (addiction clinics and rehabilitation centers) through its Technical Supervision Guide, based on the 2012 Ministry of Health Regulation 089.

The country has supervisory mechanisms for facilities offering treatment and rehabilitation services for people with problematic drug use. A team from the Ministry of Health (MINSa) and ICAD carries out that supervision.

OBJECTIVE 4

FOSTER ONGOING TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION SERVICES.

Nicaragua does not offer ongoing competence-based training in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration, but it does participate in training sessions offered by the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SECOMISCA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) at the diploma level in Prevention. Additionally, the country participates in the Basic Course on Treatment, offered by the Central American Integration System (SICA-PAHO).

The country certifies personnel providing prevention and social reintegration services at the advanced level through the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, while it certifies personnel providing treatment services at the basic level through MINSa and ICAD.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES TO REGULATE, ENABLE, ACCREDIT AND SUPERVISE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND, CARE AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Nicaragua has an accreditation and supervision process for treatment centers. It is carried out through MINSa and ICAD, under Regulation 089 of 2012.

The country has a supervisory mechanism in place to ensure that quality criteria are met in prevention services. The supervisory mechanism is applied to tertiary or indicated prevention programs by ICAD. Under an annual program established by all dependence-related health units in Nicaragua, these supervisory mechanisms are implemented by an ICAD team, using supervisory and monitoring guidelines in each center, with techniques for interviews with key sources, observation of participants and collection of photographic evidence. Nicaragua also has supervisory mechanisms to ensure that the quality criteria of care and treatment services are met. The mechanism is directed by the Ministry or through ICAD supervisory and monitoring guides in each rehabilitation center.

ICAD conducted the 2016-2017 Census to determine national needs for care and the supply of care and treatment services. The assessment covered 17 addiction care centers, which are part of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

DEMAND REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD ascertains that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has demand reduction policies that include programs in the areas of prevention, treatment and social integration. Specialized international organization guidelines are taken into consideration to establish these policies, which are implemented through coordination mechanisms with various stakeholders. Furthermore, the country carries out measures designed to minimize the adverse social and public health consequences of drug abuse, which also consider the guidelines set by international organizations. CICAD notes that in the sixth round (2013-2014), these programs included the gender perspective and adopted a multisectoral approach, while in the seventh round (2014-2018), they added human rights, intercultural, generational and gender approaches. CICAD views with concern that Nicaragua does not evaluate demand reduction programs, while it had done so in the sixth round (2013-2014).

CICAD is pleased to observe that during all seven rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has had prevention programs targeting the primary and secondary school population, street youth, family and individuals in the workplace, but it still has no programs directed to the remaining key populations. CICAD also notes the discontinuity in prevention programs for preschool, prison and workforce populations over the course of the rounds.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that throughout all rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has had a national system for comprehensive treatment and social integration programs and devices for people with problematic drug use that offers all services within the continuum of care, guaranteeing access without discrimination. Additionally, CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms to facilitate access and ensure the quality of treatment services for those with problematic drug use, mechanisms to continuously monitor and evaluate the results of care, treatment and social integration programs that include human rights and gender approaches, supervisory mechanisms for establishments that offer treatment and rehabilitation services and mechanisms to protect the rights of people.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua does not offer ongoing training in the areas of prevention, treatment or social integration, but it does participate in prevention and treatment trainings. Nevertheless, CICAD notes that in the sixth round (2013-2014), the country offered ongoing training. CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua certifies personnel that work in prevention, treatment and social integration at both the basic and advanced levels.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the fourth to the seventh rounds (2005-2018), Nicaragua has had an accreditation process for treatment centers, and has made progress on supervisory mechanisms to guarantee quality in prevention programs and in care and treatment services. CICAD emphasizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has conducted assessments to determine national needs for care and the supply of care and treatment services.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 1

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, AIMED AT PREVENTING AND DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Nicaragua does not design, implement or update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and the illicit production of drugs.

OBJECTIVE 2

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT DECREASING THE ILLICIT SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

Nicaragua has a mechanism to collect and analyze information related to the illicit supply of drugs. The institutions participating in this mechanism are the Ministry of Health (MINSAs), the Ministry of Education (MNED), the Ministry of the Family, the National Police, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, the Office of the Attorney General, the Nicaraguan Army, the Financial Analysis Unit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), the Nicaraguan Municipal Development Institute, the Unit Administering Seized and Abandoned Assets, the Ministry of Women, the Ministry of Youth, the Nicaraguan Sports Institute, the Institute against Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and the Committees for Social Prevention of Crime, the scientific community and academia, civil society and other social actors.

The country does not prepare or update studies or research on medical and scientific uses and other licit uses of crops containing narcotic or psychotropic substances subject to the international control system.

Regarding the identification of chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system, Nicaragua promotes and implements these mechanisms through the Ministry of Health's Drug Department, based on the standards and profiles established by the United Nations' International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The country also implements mechanisms for the identification of new psychoactive substances (NSP) reported periodically by the INCB.

OBJECTIVE 3

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND/OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM PROGRAMS WHICH ARE BROAD AND AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT THAT INCLUDES RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVE, INTEGRAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE.

Nicaragua does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development programs or preventive alternative development programs.

The country does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

OBJECTIVE 4

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH THE INCORPORATION AND PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.

Nicaragua does not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and the extent of the environmental impact caused by activities related to illicit crops and illicit drug production because it has not detected significant areas of illicit crops.

OBJECTIVE 5

ESTABLISH, AS APPROPRIATE, AND BASED ON EVIDENCE THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION AND CITIZEN SECURITY.

Nicaragua has characterization methodologies with territorial and socio-economic approaches on micro-drug trafficking or small-scale drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and citizen security.

The country exchanges information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking or micro-drug trafficking through the I-24/7 System of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and, at the hemispheric level, through regional entities specializing in this subject.

SUPPLY REDUCTION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD takes into account that no significant areas of illicit crops have been detected in Nicaragua, therefore they are not addressed in the design, implementation and strengthening of comprehensive policies, plans or strategies.

CICAD notes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua does not have national policies or programs to prevent and decrease illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has a mechanism for collecting and analyzing information related to the illicit supply of drugs. In addition, CICAD acknowledges that the country promotes and implements mechanisms to identify the chemical profiles and characteristics of drugs subject to the international control system and to identify NSP. However, CICAD notes that Nicaragua did not prepare or update scientific studies or research on the medicinal, scientific or other illicit uses of plants containing narcotic or psychotropic substances.

CICAD ascertains that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua does not design or implement alternative, integral and sustainable development programs and does not promote sustainable urban development initiatives in urban populations affected by illicit activities related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

CICAD observes that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has not conducted research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by activities related to illicit crops and illicit drug production.

CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua develops characterization methodologies, with a territorial and socioeconomic focus, on small-scale or micro-drug trafficking and the effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion and security. The country also exchanges information on the effects of this phenomenon.

CONTROL MEASURES

OBJECTIVE 1

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS AIMED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING DRUG TRAFFICKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY AND RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Nicaragua has the Manual of Procedures of the Antinarcotics Bureau, which includes the protocols for detecting, investigating and dismantling laboratories or facilities used for the illicit processing or manufacturing of drugs.

The country has the 2018-2021 National Antidrug Strategy to detect and seize drugs through overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints.

Law 641 of 2007 (Criminal Code), Law 406 of 2001 (Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Nicaragua) and Law 735 of 2010 (Law on the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime and the Administration of the Assets Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned) provide for the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques to prevent and reduce illicit drug trafficking and include a human rights perspective.

Nicaragua implements and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in interdiction operations regarding the laws, processes and procedures related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, and on specialized techniques for investigation and intelligence.

Updated assessments and studies are implemented through the National Police, which has statistical records to identify trends and threats related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes.

The Institute for Animal Protection and Health (IPSA) and the National Commission for the Registration and Control of Toxic Substances (CNRCST) are the institutions responsible for analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country has and participates in ongoing training programs on the use of new technologies and for the continuous updating of skills for the personnel involved in analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS.

OBJECTIVE 2

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.

Nicaragua has the National Commission for the Registration and Control of Toxic Substances (CNR CST), governed by Law 941 of 2016. It is the competent authority responsible for regulating the domestic commerce in controlled chemical substances as well as preventing their diversion to illicit activities.

The industries and users in general are informed of the applicable controls and cooperation methods that make it possible to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances through institutional agreements, ministerial resolutions and the website “Trámites Nicaragua.”

The Ministry of Health, through the Pre-Export Notification Online system of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), performs analyses and exchanges information through existing international mechanisms, on substances, their analogues and their precursors that pose a threat to public health.

The country has Law 292 of 1998 on Medicines and Pharmacy, Law 735 of 2010 on the Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime, and on the Administration of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets, amended by Law 928 of 2016. Those laws incorporate control measures contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities.

Nicaragua has a program for training and updating skills for using new technologies, given by the Ministry of Health, for drug control personnel and for identifying and handling controlled chemical substances.

OBJECTIVE 3

ADOPT AND/OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES OR THOSE CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ENSURING THE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

Nicaragua has an updated registry of the individuals and businesses that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics or psychotropic substances. In addition, the country licenses manufacturers and distributors and performs regular inspections and audits of the establishments operated by individuals and businesses authorized to handle those pharmaceutical products.

Law 641 of 2007 of the Criminal Code establishes the criminal sanctions for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses that handle the above-mentioned products.

OBJECTIVE 4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SOLELY FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION.

Nicaragua has special processes for authorizing the import and export of narcotic and psychoactive substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

The country has training and awareness-raising activities that are offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals regarding adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

Law 292 of 1998: Law on Medicines and Pharmacies and Law 735 of 2010: Law on Prevention, Investigation and Prosecution of Organized Crime and the Administration of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets and its regulations, constitute the regulatory framework and guidelines governing the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

OBJECTIVE 5

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT OF AMPHETAMINE STIMULANTS.

Nicaragua has the INCB's System for Notification of Alerts to identify and trace NPS and amphetamine-type stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control. The information generated is shared with the INCB's information exchange system, the PEN Online system, the I-24/7 system of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the merchandise control system of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

As regards new special techniques for investigation, updated equipment and new technologies acquired and used for detecting and analyzing NPS, the country has a scanner application to detect drugs on persons and in vehicles and objects.

The country has Law 292 of 1998 on Medicines and Pharmacies, its regulations and reforms in force to identify and address the challenges posed by NPS and amphetamine stimulants.

OBJECTIVE 6

ESTABLISH, UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS TO COUNTER MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING.

Nicaragua has established and updated the legal and institutional frameworks for countering money laundering, derived from illicit drug trafficking through Law 641 of 2007, Law 406 of 2001, Law 735 of 2010 and Law 793 of 2012. Those laws create the Financial Analysis Unit (UAF), a decentralized entity with functional, administrative, technical and operational autonomy. Law 976 of 2018 on the UAF and Law 977 of 2018 to fight money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the financing for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction update the legal provisions governing the UAF and establish the new framework to fight money laundering.

Laws 735 of 2010 and 793 of 2012 allow the authorities to pursue financial and asset investigations parallel to an investigation into illicit drug trafficking.

The country has the National Council against Organized Crime (CNCCO), which facilitates interinstitutional coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering.

Nicaragua has the 2015 National Risk Evaluation as a mechanism that makes it possible to analyze risks of money laundering, as per the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

OBJECTIVE 7

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES.

Nicaragua has Laws 641 of 2007, 406 of 2001 and 735 of 2010, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds from illicit activities related to drugs and other related crimes.

The country has the Administrative Unit for Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets (UABIDA) stemming from illicit activities, which is governed by Law 735 of 2010 which, along with Law 550 of 2005 on Financial Management and the Budget Regime, facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets.

Nicaragua does not offer or participate in specialized training programs for administering and disposing of seized and forfeited assets.

OBJECTIVE 8

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR EXCHANGING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO DETECT ROUTES AND METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.

Nicaragua has national mechanisms for gathering information and for the exchange of intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by the criminal organizations engaged in illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. These mechanisms are articulated by the national institutions involved in antidrug efforts, the community and territorial organizations. In addition to these means of obtaining information is the System of Measures for Discovery of the National Police, as a national information system on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, which includes alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the criminal organizations.

CONTROL MEASURES

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD observes that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Nicaragua has had protocols or procedures to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Similarly, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has programs and strategies for detecting and seizing drugs through overland, riverine, aerial and maritime monitoring, inspections and checkpoints; and implements and participates in ongoing training programs on these issues. In addition, CICAD recognizes that Nicaragua has regulations that consider the use of specialized investigative tools and techniques for preventing and reducing illicit drug trafficking. Moreover, the country produces updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats related to illicit drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, CICAD views with satisfaction that Nicaragua has institutions in charge of analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, including NPS, and that it has and participates in ongoing training programs for the personnel involved in this analysis.

CICAD is pleased to acknowledge that from the first to the seventh rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has had a competent authority responsible for regulating domestic commerce to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances to illicit activities. In addition, CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has mechanisms for informing the industry and users in general about the applicable controls and ways to cooperate that make it possible to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. In addition, CICAD observes that Nicaragua performs analyses that include exchanging information internationally on substances, their analogs and their precursors that pose a threat to public health, uses pre-export notification information system (INCB's PEN Online) on chemical substances and has training programs for drug control personnel and to identify and handle controlled chemical substances.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua's legislation includes criminal, civil and administrative penalties for infractions or violations perpetrated by individuals or businesses that handle pharmaceuticals containing precursors, narcotics or psychotropic substances. Additionally, the country has an updated registry of individuals and businesses that handle these products, grants licenses to their manufacturers and distributors and conducts regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and businesses authorized to handle such products.

CICAD notes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has special procedures for granting authorizations to import and export substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has training and awareness-raising activities offered to the competent national authorities and health professionals regarding adequate access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. Nicaragua also

has a regulatory framework that governs the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

CICAD recognizes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has an early warning system for identifying and tracing NPS and amphetamine stimulants, as well as all other substances subject to international control. The country also has regulatory frameworks or guidelines for identifying and addressing the challenges such substances pose and with updated equipment and new technologies acquired and used for detecting and analyzing NPS.

CICAD views with satisfaction that in the seven rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has had legal frameworks for countering money laundering derived from illicit drug trafficking. CICAD also observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has protocols that enable authorities to pursue financial and asset investigations parallel to an investigation into illicit drug trafficking. Nicaragua has mechanisms that make possible interinstitutional coordination and cooperation to prevent and control money laundering, a financial intelligence unit and mechanisms that make it possible to analyze the risks of money laundering, in keeping with the recommendations of the FATF.

CICAD is pleased to note that in the sixth and seventh rounds (2013-2018), Nicaragua has had a competent authority to administer forfeited assets related to money laundering. CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has legislation, regulations and procedures, in keeping with the relevant international treaties and conventions, to facilitate the seizure and forfeiture of assets, instruments or proceeds from illicit activities related to drugs and other related crimes. In addition, Nicaragua has laws and regulations that facilitate accountability and transparency in the administration of seized and forfeited assets. Nonetheless, CICAD is concerned that the country does not offer or participate in specialized training programs for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

CICAD observes that in the seventh round (2014-2018), Nicaragua has national mechanisms for gathering information and exchanging intelligence information to detect routes and methods used by criminal drug trafficking organizations. The country also has a national information system on illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on the changing conduct and modus operandi of the criminal organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

OBJECTIVE 1

PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO FOSTER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, IMPROVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES, AND SHARE BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON DRUG POLICIES AND RELATED CRIMES.

Nicaragua carries out horizontal cooperation and technical assistance activities among member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), third party States and relevant international organizations. The country has shared information and intelligence, best practices and lessons learned to strengthen the fight against drugs and has participated in courses and trainings.

The country exchanges technologies with its counterparts on the systematization of regulation, studies, research and bibliographic material produced by countries and international organizations. Nicaragua has secure communication channels for the exchange of intelligence information on drug interdiction and control. In addition, the country promotes the exchange, with foreign counterparts, of best practices on training, specialization and professional development of staff responsible for implementing its National Anti-Drug Strategy 2018-2021, by means of the International Course on Investigative and Forensic Preventive Measures to Counter Drug Trafficking. The country participated in training courses of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on sharing best practices, promoted by the Democratic Security Bureau of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

Nicaragua participates in regional coordination activities to prevent crimes related to drug trafficking such as firearms trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, money laundering and corruption, among others. There are bilateral mechanisms in the country for coordination and collaboration with other countries, focused on the dismantling of criminal groups linked to drug trafficking and related crimes. These mechanisms include the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), which has contributed to the development of greater capacity to harmonize policies and actions needed at the regional level to address the various threats of organized crime. There is also the regional coordination of the Central American Institute for Advanced Police Studies (ICESPO) and the Subcommittee of Directors of Police Academies, ensuring processes for execution of the Regional Police Training Plan.

OBJECTIVE 2

STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS IN THE AREA OF FORFEITURE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Nicaragua updated in 2017 the Criminal Code (Law 641 of 2007), the Code of Criminal Procedure (Law 406 of 2001) and Law 735 on the Prevention and Prosecution of Organized Crime and Management of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets of 2010. Likewise, in 2018 the country updated Law 793 Creating the Financial Analysis Act of 2012 and enacted Law 896 against Human Trafficking of 2015, providing effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries and international organizations on the seizure and administration of assets derived from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. The Financial Action Task Force of Latin America (GAFILAT) evaluated the country in 2017.

The country has mechanisms and procedures enabling the competent authorities to undertake expeditious actions in response to mutual legal assistance requests on investigation and forfeiture of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, there are competent authorities with legal powers to exchange information on money laundering investigations, including identification and tracing of the instruments associated with this offense, through information exchange networks such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the Regional Asset Recovery Network (RRAG) of GAFILAT, among others.

OBJECTIVE 3

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AS DEFINED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Nicaragua updated legislation and administrative actions to improve the implementation of obligations set forth in international legal instruments regarding the world drug problem, with respect for human rights and gender equality, through the Penal Code (Law 641 of 2007) in 2017; the Criminal Procedure Code (Law 406 of 2001) in 2017; Law 735 on the Prevention and Prosecution of Organized Crime and Management of Seized, Forfeited and Abandoned Assets of 2010 in 2017 and Law 793 Creating the Financial Analysis Unit of 2012 in 2018 and the enactment of Law 896 against Human Trafficking of 2015.

The country is party to the following international legal instruments:

Conventions and protocols			Yes	No
United Nations Conventions	Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	X	
		Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air	X	
		Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition	X	
		Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961	X	
		Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971	X	
		Convention against Corruption, 2003	X	
	Inter-American Conventions		Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), 1997	X
		Convention against Corruption, 1996	X	
		Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, 1992	X	

OBJECTIVE 4

PROMOTE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL LEGAL NORMS, REGULATIONS, AND INTERNAL PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEMISPHERIC JUDICIAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS AND MUTUAL LEGAL OR JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE RELATED TO DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED CRIMES.

Nicaragua has established bilateral and regional international cooperation agreements for mutual legal assistance on the control of drug trafficking and related crimes. The country has special laws and legal provisions to provide mutual legal assistance to third party States in investigations, trials and legal proceedings related to drug trafficking and related crimes.

In addition, the country has laws and other legal provisions that permit extradition for drug trafficking and related crimes, such as the Political Constitution of Nicaragua, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code. The country does not allow the extradition of nationals according to its legislation. When extradition of a national is requested, Nicaragua, according to its legislation, must prosecute such individual for the offense committed.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Drug Policy Evaluation throughout the MEM Process: 1999-2018

CICAD notes that in the first round (1999-2000), Nicaragua had centralized agencies that allowed the timely exchange of information, coordination and collaboration among countries. CICAD observes that from the third to the fifth rounds (2003-2009), the country had a central authority responsible for the exchange of information and collaboration with entities in other countries with regard to the control of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other related materials. CICAD views with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), Nicaragua has formal mechanisms for exchanging intelligence information on cases related to drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD also observes that the country carries out technical assistance and horizontal cooperation activities with the OAS member states, third party States and relevant international organizations.

CICAD recognizes that in the third round (2003-2004), Nicaragua exchanged information on money laundering with counterparts in other countries and in the fourth round (2005-2006), there was an authority responsible for that exchange. CICAD notes with satisfaction that in the seventh round (2014-2018), the country has effective mechanisms for cooperation with other countries and international organizations on asset forfeiture and the administration of assets from drug trafficking, money laundering and other related crimes. In addition, there are mechanisms and procedures that enable the competent authorities to issue requests for mutual legal assistance on the investigation and seizure of assets derived from drug trafficking and related crimes. In addition, Nicaragua has competent authorities to exchange information on investigations related to money laundering, including the identification and tracking of the instruments linked to this crime.

CICAD acknowledges that from the first to the sixth rounds (1999-2014), Nicaragua had laws on money laundering, as well as legal provisions to administratively and criminally penalize the diversion of controlled and psychotropic substances and pharmaceutical products, as well as impose criminal, civil and administrative penalties applicable to prevent the diversion of pharmaceutical and controlled chemical substances and the possession, trafficking and illicit manufacture of firearms, ammunition, explosives and other materials related to transnational organized crime and terrorism. CICAD notices the progress made by the country in the seventh round (2014-2018), by enacting legislation on organized crime and the administration of seized, forfeited and abandoned assets and human trafficking. CICAD views with satisfaction that during the seven rounds (1999-2018), Nicaragua has ratified all the conventions and protocols of the United Nations and the conventions of the Organization of American States related to the world drug problem.

CICAD acknowledges that since the third round (2003-2004), Nicaragua has signed bilateral agreements with other countries on the subject of drug trafficking and related crimes. CICAD views with satisfaction that from the sixth to the seventh rounds (2013-2018), the country has had laws allowing the provision of mutual legal assistance to States in investigations, trials and court proceedings related to drug

trafficking and money laundering. CICAD notes with satisfaction that from the third to the seventh rounds (2003-2018), Nicaragua has had laws allowing the extradition of individuals for the commission of drug trafficking and money laundering crimes. However, its legislation does not permit the extradition of its nationals.

CICAD recognizes Nicaragua for the continued participation and commitment during the seventh evaluation round of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). In accordance with its national situation, the country is encouraged to fully implement the Plan of Action (2016-2020) of CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2010).

